



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 19-258

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO UPDATE THE CITY COUNCIL ON PLANS FOR IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM REPAIRS TO THE KOKO HEAD STAIRS AND URGING THE MAYOR TO RELEASE COUNCIL-APPROVED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THESE REPAIRS.

WHEREAS, the Koko Crater trail, more commonly known as the Koko Head Stairs ("Stairs"), is an abandoned tramway in Hawaii Kai that was built by the U.S. military during World War II to haul wartime cargo and supplies to the bunker at the top of Koko Crater; and

WHEREAS, ever since the military abandoned the bunker and tramway after World War II, the public has hiked the Stairs as a source of exercise and recreation, lured by the panoramic views of east Oahu, the Pacific Ocean, and nearby neighbor islands that are visible from the summit; and

WHEREAS, a combination of time, weather, an ever-growing number of local and visiting hikers, and the absence of a City and County of Honolulu ("City") maintenance and repair program has eroded the Stairs' tramway line, rail ties, and the land supporting the Stairs, resulting in unsafe and hazardous conditions; and

WHEREAS, understanding the value of the Stairs to visitors and the local community, and the need to address public safety issues, the City Council ("Council") appropriated funds in the Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Operating Budget (Ordinance 19-13) for the Department of Parks and Recreation, with the proviso that "[a]t least \$100,000 out of current expenses shall be appropriated for immediate repairs and maintenance of Koko Head Stairs"; and

WHEREAS, the Kokonut Coalition, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has invested considerable time and effort in developing a cost-effective temporary repair proposal to keep the Stairs functional until a more permanent long-term rehabilitation and repair plan can be implemented; and

WHEREAS, in addition to making temporary repairs, the City can look to other U.S. jurisdictions for possible long-term repair solutions for the Stairs; and

WHEREAS, for example, in 2014 the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado, initiated repairs to the Manitou Incline, a trail which began in 1907 as a tramway to haul materials and equipment to Pikes Peak, after a rock slide damaged the trail and the tramway's rails were removed; and



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WHEREAS, numerous repair methods were used, including replacing damaged rail ties, installing a cabling system to prevent future earth movement, and constructing retaining walls and riprap boulder walls to help prevent erosion; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that, in light of the continuing public interest in hiking the Stairs and the public safety threat that the Stairs have become, it is in the City's best interest to move expeditiously to address needed repairs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the City Administration, through the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Design and Construction, to update the Council on plans for immediate and long-term repairs to the Koko Head Stairs and urges the Mayor to release Council-approved appropriations for these repairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests the Administration, in its update to the Council, to include, at a minimum, the following information:

- The scope of work involved in repair and maintenance activities, including plans and designs to address public safety issues;
- The progress of any "Request For Proposals" process underway; and
- A timeline for the completion of immediate repairs, as well as for the completion of long-term plans and repairs for the Stairs; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Director of Design and Construction.

INTRODUCED BY:

Sam Waterhouse
[Signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 9 2019

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

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Introduced: 10/09/19 By: TOMMY WATERS
JOEY MANAHAN Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY AND
WELFARE

Title: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO UPDATE THE CITY COUNCIL ON PLANS FOR IMMEDIATE
AND LONG-TERM REPAIRS TO THE KOKO HEAD STAIRS AND URGING THE MAYOR TO RELEASE COUNCIL-
APPROVED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THESE REPAIRS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

10/24/19	PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE	CR-347 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION. 5 AYES: FUKUNAGA, MANAHAN, MENOR, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.
11/06/19	COUNCIL	CR-347 AND RESOLUTION 19-258 WERE ADOPTED. 7 AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, WATERS. 2 ABSENT: ANDERSON, TSUNEYOSHI.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER